

Message Text

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53

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 SY-05 SCCT-01 CU-02

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /063 W

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P 231540Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2652

INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KINSHASA 4290

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC (SMUTS, BARBARA AND KENNETH STEVEN SMITH AND CARRIE HUNTER)

SUBJ: KIDNAPPING OF STUDENTS: SPECULATIONS BY TANZANIAN AMBASSADOR

1. TANZANIAN AMBASSADOR TIBANDEBAGE ON MAY 23, AFTER EXPRESSING TO ME HIS REGRET OVER KIDNAPPING IN HIS COUNTRY, STATED HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS FROM DAR ES SALAAM, THAT ELEX TO DAR HAS BEEN OUT FOR MONTHS AND THAT HIS EFFORTS TO CONTACT HIS FOREIGN MINISTRY BY TELEPHONE HAVE SO FAR BEEN UNAVAILING.

2. TIBENDEBAGE, WHO IS EXPERIENCED AFRICAN DIPLOMAT AND LONG-TIME ZAIRIAN OBSERVER, FINDS PATTERN OF EVENTS AS KNOWN TO BE QUITE UNLIKE AFRICAN BEHAVIOR. HE SAID ONLY WAY HE COULD RECONCILE EVENTS WITH AFRICA BEHAVIOR WOULD BE IF BANDITS WERE SEEKING "MATES." BEFORE OUR CONVESATION HE HAD SEEN CAPTURE THREE WOMEN AS INDICATIVE OF SUCH MOTIVATION BUT WHEN I SAID THERE EVIDENCE OF PLANNING AND IT APPEARED TO BE LARGELY ACCIDENTAL THAT THREE WOMEN HAD BEEN SEIZED, HE BEGAN SPECULATING ABOUT POLITICAL POSSIBILITIES, INCLUDING, OF COURSE, THEORY THAT ANTI-MOBUTU REBELS INVOLVED OR THAT SOMEHOW AMIN IS BEHIND EFFORT TO EMBARASS TANZANIA.

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3. SEPARATELY WE HAVE SOME REASON TO BELIEVE ZAIRIAN OFFICIALS SUSPECT GROUP MAY HAVE COME FROM BURUNDI OR THIS MAY BE LINE THEY DEVELOPING TO SHIFT ATTENTION FROM ZAIRE JUST AS IT IS POSSIBLE TANZANIAN OFFICIALS FOR THEIR REASONS ARE TRYING TO SHIFT SPOTLIGHT ONTO ZAIRE.

4. PARAS 2 AND 3 ABOVE ARE, OF COURSE, SPECULATIVE, BUT SINCE SOME OF IT IS NEW SPECULATION, I REPORT IT FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH.
HINTON

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